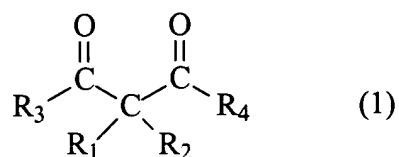


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2 and 6, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A photoinitiator consisting essentially of a compound having a molecular weight of 1000 or less, and having a chemical structure represented by formula (1),

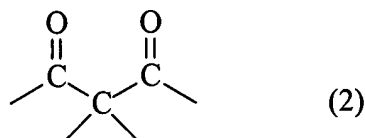


wherein R₃ and R₄ independently denote an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 8, and

R₁ and R₂ independently denote

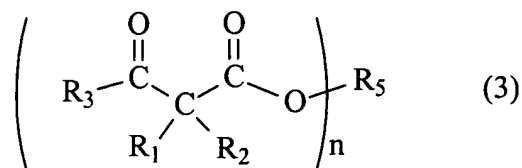
- 1) an electron attracting group,
- 2) an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 8, or
- 3) an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 8, which has an electron attracting group at the β, γ, or δ position with respect to both of the carbonyl groups, wherein the alkyl group 2) is methyl or ethyl group when each of the two substituents is the alkyl group 2), and

the weight percentage of a the C₃O₂ chemical structure ~~element~~ elements represented by the following formula (2),



~~which is expressed in formula (1) in the compound, based on the total molecular weight of the compound, is within the range of 17% to 54% by mass of the total mass of the compound~~

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A photoinitiator consisting essentially of a compound having a molecular weight of 1000 or less, and having a chemical structure represented by the following formula (3),



wherein

R₃ denotes an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 8,

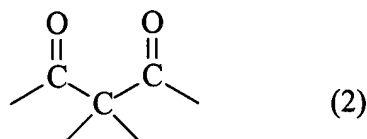
R₅ denotes a mono-, di-, tri-, tetra- or pentavalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group, or an alkyleneoxy group containing aliphatic hydrocarbon group,

n is a natural number of 1 to 5, and

R₁ and R₂ independently denote

- 1) an electron attracting group,
- 2) an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 8, or
- 3) an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 8, which has an electron attracting group at the β , γ , or δ position with respect to both of the carbonyl groups, wherein the alkyl group 2) is methyl or ethyl group when each of the two substituents is the alkyl group 2), and

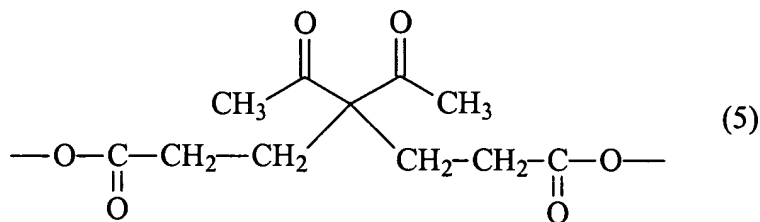
the weight percentage of a the C₃O₂ chemical structure ~~element~~ elements represented by the following formula (2),



~~which is expressed in formula (3) in the compound, based on the total molecular weight of the compound,~~ is within the range of 17% to 47% ~~by mass~~ of the total mass of the compound.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A photoinitiator according to claim 1, wherein the R₁ and R₂ are identical.

Claim 4 (Original): A photoinitiator according to claim 1, wherein the compound has at least one chemical structure element represented by the following formula (5).



Claim 5 (Original): A photoinitiator according to claim 2, wherein the compound has at least one chemical structure element represented by the following formula (6).


$$\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_3 \\ | \\ \text{O}=\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{O}-\left(\text{CH}(\text{R}_9)-\text{CH}(\text{R}_{10})-\text{O} \right)_m-\text{R}_{11} \\ | \quad | \quad | \quad || \\ \text{R}_6 \quad \text{R}_8 \quad \text{R}_7 \quad \text{O} \\ | \\ \text{O}=\text{C}-\text{C} \\ | \\ \text{R}_{12} \end{array} \right]_n \quad (7)$$

n is a natural number of 2 to 4, and

m is an integer of 0 to 15.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A photocurable composition comprising,

- (i) a photoinitiator according to the claim 1, and
- (ii) a radical curable ethylenic unsaturated compound.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A photoinitiator according to claim 2, wherein the R₁ and R₂ are identical.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A photocurable composition comprising,

- (i) a photoinitiator according to the claim 2, and
- (ii) a radical curable ethylenic unsaturated compound.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A photocurable composition comprising,

- (i) a photoinitiator according to the claim 3, and
- (ii) a radical curable ethylenic unsaturated compound.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A photocurable composition comprising,

- (i) a photoinitiator according to the claim 4, and
- (ii) a radical curable ethylenic unsaturated compound.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A photocurable composition comprising,

- (i) a photoinitiator according to the claim 5, and
- (ii) a radical curable ethylenic unsaturated compound.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A photocurable composition comprising,

- (i) a photoinitiator according to the claim 6, and
- (ii) a radical curable ethylenic unsaturated compound.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A photocurable composition comprising,

- (i) a photoinitiator according to the claim 8, and
- (ii) a radical curable ethylenic unsaturated compound.